

Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01
SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08 EA-07
NEA-10 /129 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2509

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAN APULO

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, AR

SUBJECT: SPECIAL ICFTU MISSION TO ARGENTINA

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 7853, (B) EC BURSSSELS 11666 (NOTAL),
(C) EC BRUSSELS A-518

1. NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON THE MEMBERSHIP OR TIMING OF
THE MISSION THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE
UNIONS (ICFTU) IS PLANNING TO SEND TO ARGENTINA, ACCORDING TO ENZO
FRISO, HEAD OF THE ICFTU'S DEPARTMENT FOR EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE NOVEMBER ICFTU BOARD MEETING DID NOT DESIGNATE MISSION

MEMBERS, IT DID DECIDE THAT THEY SHOULD BE "HIGH LEVEL" AND
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SHOULD INCLUDE A BOARD MEMBER FROM A EUROPEAN COUNTRY WITH WHICH

ARGENTINA DOES SUBSTANTIAL TRADE, FRISO SAID.

3. SINCE ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY OTTO KERSTEN, WHO HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ORGANIZING THE MISSION, IS OUT OF TOWN, FRISCO WAS RELUCTANT TO GO INTO NAMES, BUT IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION, HE DID SAY THAT, AS OF NOW, CASILDO HERRERAS OF THE CGT WOULD NOT BE PART OF THE GROUP. "FOR ONE THING," FRISO ADDED, "IN THE PRESENT SITUATION HERRERAS WOULD BE ARRESTED IF HE VISITED ARGENTINA."

4. FRISO EXPLAINED THAT ONE REASON FOR THE MISSION IS TO DISCUSS HERRERAS' OWN CASE AND THOSE OF 15 ARGENTINE LABOR LEADERS NOW IN JAIL.

5. WOULD THE MISSION BE A JOINT ONE WITH ORIT? YES, FRISO REPLIED, IN THE SENSE THAT ITS MEMBERS WOULD INCLUDE LEADERS OF ORIT AFFILIATES. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SOME DISCUSSION (IN A SMALL PRIVATE MEETING APART FROM THE RECENT BOARD SESSIONS) ABOUT ASKING THE AFL-CIO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSION, BUT FRISO DOES NOT KNOW WHERE THIS STANDS.

6. AS TO TIMING, FRISO AT FIRST SAID THAT THE MISSION WOULD PROBABLY GO TO ARGENTINA IN FEBRUARY, BUT THEN WITHDREW THIS AS A PURE GUESS. ICFTU ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY JOHN VANDERVEKEN CONFIRMED TO US THAT BOTH THE TIMING AND COMPOSITION OF THE ARGENTINA MISSION ARE STILL "WIDE OPEN". AT ANY RATE, THE MISSION COULD NOT GET UNDER WAY BEFORE THE NEW YEAR, HE SAID.

7. WE WILL REPORT ON PLANS FOR THE VISIT AS THEY DEVELOP. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU11934
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760450-0936
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761270/aaaacitu.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BUENOS AIRES 7853, 76 EC BRUSSELS 11666, 76 EC BRUSSELS A-518
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPECIAL ICFTU MISSION TO ARGENTINA
TAGS: ELAB, AR, ICFTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006